



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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11/24/09  
Final

January 5, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: *for* William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

### CROSS-REPORTING INCIDENTS OF CHILD ABUSE TO CITY ATTORNEYS

On November 24, 2009, on a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and with the assistance of the District Attorney (DA), and the Sheriff, to report back in 30 days with a plan to expand cross-reporting to the city attorney's and city prosecutor's offices in Burbank, Hawthorne, Santa Monica, Torrance, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Redondo Beach of all reported incidents of child abuse occurring within their respective city limits, which are required to be cross-reported to the DA pursuant to California Penal Code §11166(j) (09-2617).

### INTRODUCTION

The Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E-SCARs), funded by a grant from the Los Angeles County Productivity and Investment Fund and guided by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from DCFS, DA, and the Sheriff, was developed to electronically transmit cross reports of child abuse to all law enforcement agencies in the County and to enable statutorily mandated oversight by the DA. On April 13, 2009, DCFS, DA, and the Sheriff implemented E-SCARs throughout all Sheriff's stations in the County. By October 2009, E-SCARs was expanded to all independent law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County, including the Los Angeles Police Department.

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## **SHARING OF E-SCARS WITH CITY ATTORNEY'S AND CITY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES**

In June 2009, the E-SCARS Steering Committee made a presentation to the Los Angeles County Prosecutors Association regarding E-SCARS and invited their participation in this important reporting tool. Further, on December 11, 2009, the CEO, DCFS, and Sheriff conducted a meeting with representatives from the cities of Burbank, Santa Monica, Pasadena, Hawthorne, and Torrance to invite their participation in E-SCARS. While the feedback was generally positive, they indicated that they currently have access to the information on child abuse allegations provided by E-SCARS through their local law enforcement agencies.

Although cross-reporting incidents of child abuse directly to the city attorney's and prosecutor's offices is not mandatory, the E-SCARS team is currently programming E-SCARS to ensure that all city attorney and prosecutorial offices identified in the Board's motion will have access to E-SCARS. Training and support will be offered to participating offices to enable their access to E-SCARS. In addition, as requested by the city attorney representatives present at the meeting held on December 11, 2009, a presentation to the Los Angeles County Prosecutor's Association demonstrating E-SCARS benefits and features will be scheduled for either January or February 2010. It should be noted that representatives from the cities of Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, and Long Beach were invited to participate in the December 11, 2009 meeting, but did not attend. These cities were represented in the June 2009 presentation.

Please let me know if you have any questions or your staff may contact Brian Mahan at (213) 974-1318.

WTF:JW:DS  
BM:cvb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Children and Family Services  
District Attorney  
Sheriff's Department